CONFIDENTIAL

OEXA 82-0261/1
25 January 1982

HGOC

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Security Procedures for House Government Operations Committee

1. On 25 January 1982, I contacted John Moore, Staff Administrator on
the House Government Operations Committee, to discuss their procedures for
staff security clearances and storage of classified documents. I explained
that we were preparing to deliver a classified response to a 1 December 1981
letter from Chairman Jack Brooks (D., TX) relating to Agency telecommunications.
Our Office of Security has not conducted a security review of their storage
facilities as is our procedure with other Committees. Moore indicated that
Chairman Brooks takes responsibility for his own security procedures. His
rationale is that as the Congressional Committee whose charter it is to study
the effectiveness and efficiency of government agencies it would not be
appropriate for one of those agencies to investigate his Committee. Moore
stated that in 1975 the White House, in a letter signed by Jack Marsh,
accepted Chairman Brooks' rationale.

2. Mr. Moore added that Chairman Brooks does not take his security
responsibility lightly. He believes that his own procedures meet any govern-
ment standard. His staff clearance investigations are conducted by OPM and
reviewed by GAO. Their safes are the standard Mosler combination safes.
Moore said that the Committee operates on a strict "need to know" principle
and he assured me that our material would be handled properly. We have already
received the same assurance from Jim Levin and Jim Rife, the staffers who
are actually working on the telecommunications project. Decisions on future
deliveries of classified material to this Committee should be made on a
case-by-case basis. In this instance, our material should be forwarded to
the Committee.

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Legislative Liaison

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